Revival Package for NPCC

*138. *SHRI* NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Package under Government's consideration for revival of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) After examining all aspects, a proposal containing four options namely (i) Closure (Immediate or in Phases); (ii) Privatisation; (iii) Management Contract for Reforms; and (iv) Revival, has been framed in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Issuance of Passport

*139. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications pending with Regional Passport Offices in the country as on date, office-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Regional Passport Office at New Delhi alone has the largest pending applications; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to expedite issuance of passports within one month, as assured earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A detailed *statement* showing the number of passport applications pending with various Regional Passport Offices in the country as on 15th May, 1998, which is the latest date for which such figures are available is laid on the table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is constantly endeavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are computerisation of processing procedures, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of Passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

Statement

S.No.	Passport Office	Pendency brought forward from 1997	Pending over a month as on 15.5.1998	Total Pendency as on 15.5.1998
1.	Ahmedabad	19559	7368	22537
2.	Bangalore	20399	8878	17378
3.	Bareilly	14108	12172	16983
4.	Bhopal	3679	1668	4321
5.	Bhubaneshwar	4022	3272	4285
6.	Calcutta	7304	1978	7709
7.	Chandigarh	13362	9515	19293
8.	Chennai	22109	17598	28673
9.	Cochin	8941	1472	10617
10.	Delhi	33753	26483	32954
11.	Ghaziabad	—	3123	4322
12.	Goa	2200	2282	2964
13.	Guwahati	2511	1639	2747
14.	Hyderabad	31383	4777	21037

S.No.	Passport Office	Pendency brought forward from 1997	Pending over a month as on 15.5.1998	Total Pendency as on 15.5.1998
15.	Jaipur	14647	11013	16579
16.	Jalandhar	18456	16913	26883
17.	Kozhikode	14041	12293	23226
18.	Lucknow	35316	16852	26673
19.	Mumbai	17044	6309	25613
20.	Nagpur	1087	262	1158
21.	Patna	6145	2954	7435
22.	Trichy	36378	19685	25626
23.	Trivandrum	11618	3300	10448
24.	Jammu	8475	7935	8474
25.	Srinagar	—	44840	44958
26.	Thane	1340	224	1506
27.	Visakhapatnam	—	899	4690

Passport Offices at Ghaziabad, Srinagar and Visakhapatnam were opened in 1998 and there is no carried over pendency from 1997.

गरीबी-रेखा का निर्धारण किया जाना

*140. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में 49.89 रुपये तथा शहरी क्षेत्र में 56.64 रुपये प्रति माह से कम खर्च करने वाले व्यक्ति को गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाला व्यक्ति माना जाता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो गरीबी रेखा का निर्धारण करने हेतु प्रति-व्यक्ति आय के स्थान पर प्रति-व्यक्ति व्यय को आधार बनाए जाने के क्या कारण है?

रेल मंत्रालय, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में, वर्ष 1973-74 की कीमतों पर क्रमशः 49.09 रुपये तथा 56.64 रुपये प्रति माह से कम खर्च करने वाले व्यक्ति को गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे जीवनयापन करने वाला व्यक्ति माना जाता है। वर्ष 1993-94 में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर गरीबी रेखा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 205.84 तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में 281.35 रुपये प्रतिमाह प्रतिव्यक्ति उपभोग-व्यय पर आधारित थी।

(ख) विशेषज्ञों की राय में जीवनयापन के वास्तविक स्तर को मापने के लिए आय की तुलना में व्यय एक अधिक उपयुक्त पद्धति है।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Floods and Natural Calamities

889. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the floods and natural calamities situation during 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the States badly affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have also assessed the loss of life and property; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount of loss incurred thereby, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) According to the reports received, many States were affected in varying degrees by the natural calamities including floods. A statement indicating State-wise details of loss of human lives and damage to crops and houses due to natural calamities, based on the information received from the State Govenrment, is Annexed. (*See* below)